



REDUCING RISK **SWIMMING POOL SAFETY**

Owning a swimming pool is terrific, but let's not forget they can also be dangerous. In fact, nationwide, 350 children under age five die and 2,000 more children under age five visit emergency rooms for submersion injuries every year.

Keep in mind...

A swimming pool in the yard can be very dangerous for children. If possible, consider not putting a swimming pool in your yard until your children are 5 years of age or older. If you already have a pool, protect your children from drowning by taking the following precautions.

Use the following checklist as a guide to ensuring pool safety.

- Never leave your children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.
- Anyone watching young children around a pool should learn CPR and be able to rescue a child if needed. Stay within an arm's length of your child.
- Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach out for them.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier.
- Steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.
- Install a fence or barrier at least four feet high around your pool, with a self-closing and self-latching gate.



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